

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEHRAN 02617 151028Z
ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EB-08 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10
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FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7427

UNCLAS TEHRAN 02617

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: BGEN IR
SUBJ: IRANIAN POLICY PERTAINING TO LICENSING ARRANGEMENTS

REF: STATE 055788

1. EMBASSY CONCLUDES, BASED UPON INQUIRIES AT THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIES AND MINES AND FOREIGN INVESTMENT DEPARTMENT OF MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AND FINANCE, THAT THERE IS NO LAW OR REGULATION REQUIRING THAT LICENSING OR JOINT VENTURE AGREEMENTS ALLOCATE A SPECIFIC SHARE OF THE FOREIGN PARTNER'S THIRD COUNTRY MARKETS TO THE IRANIAN ENTERPRISE. DR. GHAFARZADEH, CURRENTLY UNDERSECRETARY FOR PLANNING RATHER THAN INDUSTRIES, COULD NOT BE REACHED; HOWEVER, MR. JOURABCHI, EXECUTIVE UNDERSECRETARY OF THE MINISTRY DID CONFIRM THAT THE MINISTRY HAD ASKED IDRO FOR 30-PERCENT ALLOCATION, IN THIS CASE.

2. THE ABSENCE OF A RULE OR REGULATION SPECIFYING EXPORT ALLOCATIONS OF THE TYPE REPORTED IS CONSISTENT WITH THE EMBASSY'S UNDERSTANDING OF GOI INVESTMENT RULES; HOWEVER, IT IS WELL ESTABLISHED AND INCREASING GOI PRACTICE IN CONSIDERING LICENSING AND OTHER JOINT VENTURE ARRANGEMENTS TO EMPHASIZE EXPORT POTENTIAL IN ADDITION TO NEED FOR AND QUALITY OF TECHNOLOGY INVOLVED. IN SOME INSTANCES THIS HAS TAKEN FORM OF OBTAINING AGREEMENTS TO SPECIFIC EXPORT
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TARGETS AS A PERCENTAGE OF ANTICIPATED PRODUCTION. EMBASSY UNAWARE, HOWEVER, OF SPECIFIC OVERSEAS MARKETS BEING STIPULATED, ESPECIALLY AT EXPENSE OF FOREIGN PARTNER'S EXISTING MARKET SHARE FROM OTHER EXPORT PRODUCTION.

3. ALLOCATION REQUEST OF WABCO DEAL APPEARS INDICATIVE OF GROWING GOI CONCERN WITH DEVELOPMENT OF NON-OIL EXPORTS

AND IT SEEMS NOT UNLIKELY THAT THE U.S. COMPANY'S EXPERIENCE
MAY BE REPEATED IN FUTURE WITH POSSIBLE VARIATIONS. EMBASSY
BELIEVES, HOWEVER, THAT THIS WAS AN AD HOC DECISION THAT SHOULD
LEAVE SUBSTANTIAL ROOM FOR MANEUVER BY WABCO PROVIDED, OF
COURSE, THAT A MORE AMENABLE COMPETITOR IS NOT STANDING
IN THE WINGS.
SULLIVAN

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